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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Programme planning

Letter dated 27 October 2003 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter from Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of the Second Committee, dated 22 October 2003, containing the recommendations of the Second Committee on the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/58/16) (see annex).

(*Signed*) Julian R. **Hunte**

03-58718 (E) 311003

Annex

Letter dated 22 October 2003 from the Chairman of the Second Committee addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Pursuant to decisions taken by the General Assembly at the second plenary meeting of its fifty-eighth session pertaining to the allocation of items to the Second Committee, the Committee, this morning, reviewed the recommendations in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/58/16), in particular, chapter III.B, entitled "Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005" (A/58/84, annex), programme 7, Economic and Social Affairs, and chapter III.C, entitled "Evaluation". The Second Committee endorses the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, as contained in the relevant parts of its report, and would like to make the following additional recommendations, to be included under chapter III.B of the report:

- *Paragraph 503 of document A/58/16, paragraph 7.2 of document A/58/84, annex*. After the words "World Assembly on Ageing (2002), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002)", add "and the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields (resolution 57/270 B)".

- *Paragraph 503 of document A/58/16, under the heading entitled "Legislative mandates"*. Add General Assembly resolution 57/270 B, "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields".

(*Signed*) Iftekhar Ahmed **Chowdhury**
Chairman of the Second Committee

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Agenda item 161
Financing of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire

Letter dated 29 October 2003 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for consideration by the Fifth Committee, the text of a letter dated 27 October 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to me regarding the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (see annex).

(Signed) Julian R. **Hunte**

03-58899 (E) 301003

Annex

Letter dated 27 October 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly*

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of a letter dated 13 October 2003 from the President of the Security Council addressed to me regarding the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire, and my reply dated 23 October (see appendices I and II).

I should be grateful if you could have this exchange of correspondence circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 161.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

* Originally issued under the symbol A/58/535.

Appendix I

Letter dated 13 October 2003 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

Your report to the Security Council (S/2003/374) provided several options to address insecurity in Côte d'Ivoire. The Security Council in its resolution 1479 (2003) selected option (b) recommended in your report and established the mandate for the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI), which was not a peacekeeping operation. This conclusion is supported by the negotiating history of the resolution. Therefore, the Council recalls that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is to administer MINUCI as a Special Political Mission for budgetary and other purposes and take appropriate action to ensure that all issues related to MINUCI are so acknowledged.

In the course of upcoming consultations on the renewal of the mandate of MINUCI as it nears its November expiration, Security Council members will review, among other issues, the possible designation of MINUCI as a peacekeeping mission and will evaluate the possible reinforcement of the United Nations presence in Côte d'Ivoire.

(*Signed*) John D. **Negroponte**
President of the Security Council

Appendix II

Letter dated 23 October 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Thank you for your letter dated 13 October 2003 in which you convey the Security Council's view that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should administer the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI) as a "Special Political Mission" for budgetary and other purposes.

I have taken careful note of the view of the Security Council on this matter. Since the matter also relates to the administrative and budgetary aspects of a United Nations field operation, I have transmitted it to the attention of the President of the General Assembly. As the Security Council is aware, the Charter under Article 17 (2) assigns to the General Assembly the responsibility to apportion the expenses of the Organization.

I welcome the Security Council's willingness to consider the possible reinforcement of MINUCI, as indicated in your letter, and I understand that the Council has already begun consultations in this regard. I hope that the Council will reach an early agreement on such reinforcement.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Admission of the International Criminal Court to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Admission of the International Criminal Court to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its 28th plenary meeting, held on 13 October 2003, the General Assembly decided, on the recommendation of the General Committee, to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session an additional item entitled "Admission of the International Criminal Court to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee for consideration. The Netherlands had requested the inclusion of the item and, in the explanatory memorandum accompanying its request (A/58/234, annex), provided background information on the application of the International Criminal Court for admission to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund.

2. The requirements for membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund are set out in article 3, paragraphs (b) and (c), of its Regulations, which read as follows:

> "(b) Membership in the Fund shall be open to the specialized agencies referred to in Article 57, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations and to any other international, intergovernmental organization which participates in the common system of salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of the United Nations and the specialized agencies."
>
> "(c) Admission to membership in the Fund shall be by decision of the General Assembly, upon the affirmative recommendation of the Board, after acceptance by the organization concerned of these Regulations and agreement reached with the Board as to the conditions which shall govern its admission."

03-58911 (E) 311003

3. The Secretary-General herewith transmits to the Fifth Committee the note by the Chief Executive Officer of the Pension Fund concerning the application of the International Criminal Court for membership (see annex), which had been considered by the Standing Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board at its session in July 2003.

Annex

Note by the Chief Executive Officer of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

1. The application of the International Criminal Court for membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund was considered by the Standing Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board at its session held from 7 to 11 July 2003. At its July 2002 session, the Pension Board had decided to authorize the Standing Committee to consider in 2003 an application for Pension Fund membership that might be received from the Court; such an application was then in fact received, in the form of a communication dated 11 April 2003. The Court's application met the requirements established in article 3 of the Pension Fund Regulations for admission to membership.

2. At its July 2003 session the Standing Committee of the Pension Board took the following decision, by consensus:

> "The Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Pension Board, therefore agreed to make to the United Nations General Assembly the 'affirmative recommendation', required under article 3 (c) of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund Regulations, that the International Criminal Court be admitted to United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund membership effective 1 January 2004. However, that recommendation by the Committee was made subject to confirmation by the Secretary/Chief Executive Officer, before the Assembly took a definite decision on the application for United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund membership in fall 2003, that the International Criminal Court Staff Regulations that will be adopted shortly by the States parties of that organization aligned the International Criminal Court conditions of service with those prevailing in the 'common system'."

3. At its second session, from 8 to 12 September 2003, the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court adopted the Staff Regulations of the Court. The Chief Executive Officer of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund has reviewed those Staff Regulations and has confirmed that they align the International Criminal Court conditions of service with those prevailing in the common system and thus conform with the "common system of salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of the United Nations and the specialized agencies", as required by article 3 (b) of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund Regulations.

4. Accordingly, pursuant to the agreement reached by consensus in the Standing Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board in July 2003, the Fifth Committee may wish to recommend to the General Assembly that it decide to approve the application of the International Criminal Court for membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, effective 1 January 2004.

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Programme planning

Letter dated 6 November 2003 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter from Enrique Loedel, Chairman of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), dated 4 November 2003 (see annex), containing the recommendations of the Fourth Committee on the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

(*Signed*) Julian R. **Hunte**

03-60553 (E) 111103

Annex

Letter dated 4 November 2003 from the Chairman of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Pursuant to decisions taken by the General Assembly at the second plenary meeting of its fifty-eighth session pertaining to the allocation of items to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), the Committee, at its 16th meeting, on 29 October, reviewed the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/58/16), in particular in chapter III, section B, programme 23, Public information. The Fourth Committee endorses the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in the relevant parts of its report.

(*Signed*) Enrique **Loedel**
Chairman
Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee)